

Summary of State and Tribal Biological Assessment and Biological Criteria Programs: 2001 Update

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water (OW) and Office of Environmental Information (OEI) published a document *Summary of Biological Assessment Programs and Biocriteria Development for States, Tribes, Territories, and Interstate Commissions: Streams and Wadeable Rivers* (EPA-822-R-02-048) summarizing the status of biological assessments and biological criteria development for rivers and streams. The information, compiled from states, tribes, territories and interstate commissions, illustrates significant progress over the last six years in using biological assessments and criteria to manage our nation's waterbodies. Many states, tribes and other entities now use biological information gathered from bioassessments to report nationwide the status of waterbodies that meet or do not meet their designated aquatic life use goals and to determine waterbodies that are impaired. Bioassessments and biocriteria enable states, tribes and other entities to develop and implement protection and restoration strategies. The information gathered in this document will allow EPA to better focus its water quality standards and criteria development strategy for the next several years, target new program priorities, and assess present technical support need of states, tribes and other entities.